

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in this application.

Reasons for Allowance

The present invention is directed to a process of preparing adiponitrile that involves several steps that include a double hydroyanation of 1,3-butadiene wherein at least one nickel(0) catalyst used in a particular process steps is transferred to other process step. The closest prior art is U.S. Patent No. 6,242,633. None of the published processes anticipated, or rendered obvious, the process as described in this application. Therefore, claims 1-16 are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement for Reasons for Allowance."

Telephone Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kamal A Saeed whose telephone number is (571) 272-0705. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 7:00 AM- 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joseph K. McKane, can be reached at (571) 272-0699. **The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is**

(571) 273-8300. Please note this is the central FAX number for all official correspondence.

Communication via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise requires a signature, may be used by applicant and should be addressed to [joseph.mckane@uspto.gov]. All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees will not communicate with applicant via Internet e-mail where sensitive data will be exchanged or where there exists a possibility that sensitive data could be identified unless there is of record an express waiver of the confidentiality requirements under 35 U.S.C. 122 by the applicant. See the Interim Internet Usage Policy published by the Patent and Trademark Office Official Gazette on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or public PAIR only. For more information about the pair system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197.

/Kamal A Saeed/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1626

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